

## **Native Plant Salvage & Replanting Evaluation Guidelines**

Arizona vegetative zones include many rare and unusual plant species that may be found only in limited numbers, geographic areas and in some cases limited to the State. Native plant salvage and replanting on a project must be in conformance to the requirements of Arizona Native Plant Laws.

Mitigation requirements, project stipulations and impacts require during the design development that appropriate evaluation of project area vegetative cover be made using the following and other additional project specific criteria as appropriate in the evaluation for plant salvage and replanting within the highway right of way.

Plant salvage, nursery establishment and maintenance and replanting on the project under usual conditions should be limited to \$200,000 per mile not including a one or two year establishment period. Exceptions would be in cases where Saguaros, Barrels, Ocotillos and other primary or climax species such as Ironwood may require additional funding to accomplish the ADOT approved level of plant salvage and replanting.

### **Non Discretionary Evaluation Requirements:**

1. Conformance to requirements of Arizona Native Plant Laws.
2. NEPA Decision Document requirement.
3. Highway safety would not be compromised.
4. Mitigation for 404 permit requirement.
5. Plants must be species that would be self-sustaining after planting and establishment.

### **Discretionary Evaluation Requirements:**

1. Replanting of salvaged or planting of nursery plant materials would maintain or restore wildlife habitat value for cover and movement connectivity between habitat areas crossing the highway.

2. Plant species that exhibit difficulty in regenerating naturally or establishing from seeding.
3. Designed replanting quantities should not exceed the area's existing density for individual species and area plant spacing which are good indicators of the areas capacity for sustainable plant survival.
4. Maintain or enhance the visual resource quality of the highway right of way, professional judgment should be used to achieve an appearance similar to the surrounding area and at the same time self-sustaining with the available natural moisture.
5. Required maintenance activities would not be affected such as ditch and culvert cleaning, mowing, shoulder repair and vegetative management and erosion control within a vehicle recovery area.
6. Plants are in good condition with high level of assurance for survival and reestablishment. Locations of plants are accessible for equipment.
7. Salvage and transplanting of primary or climax vegetation is emphasized over transitional or secondary species.
8. Unique species, densities and site conditions that result in estimated plant salvage, nursery and planting costs above \$200,000 per mile requires project specific justification and cost increase approval.